dressing a press conference at Jalandhar Shri Kuldip Singh Wadala, General Secretary S. A. Dal (Badal) declared that Punjab had never been an integral part of India. This statement has not been supported by the various factions including S. A. Dad (Badal) whose leaders have stated that these were the personal views of Shri Wadala. The situation is under close watch with a view to taking appropriate action as and when required.

(c) The Prime Minister visited Punjab, on 18-12-90 and generally reviewed the law and order situation in the State.

Self-immolation by students against implementation of Mandal Commission recommendations

1459. SHRI S. S- AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of students committed self-immolation in various parts of the country against the implementation of Mandal Commission recommendations;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have paid any -x>mpensation to dependents of such students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if no compensation has been paid, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANTSAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The information is being obtained from all States/Union Territory Administrations and a statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statehood to Pondicherry

1460. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased lo refer to the answer to Unstarredl Question 1923 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision to grant statehood to Pondicherry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Government of India are of the view that having regard to the various implications, the time is not opportune to consider the matter at present.

Industrial licences granted to Pondicherry

1461. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of new industrial licences granted to the Union Territory of Pondicherry after the National Front Government came to power; and

(b) the number of sick industrial units located for the last 3 years in pondicherry and what steps Government are taking to revive those units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) During the period 1-12-1989 to 30-11-1990, three Industrial Licences and five Letters of Intent were granted for setting up industries in the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

(b) In terms of the information regarding sick industrial units in the country maintained by the Reserve Bank of India, there were 308 sick industrial units in the Small Scale Sector and 3 sick industrial